

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 58

December 2011

No. 10



Calendar

Thurs., Nov. 24	Thanksgiving; Town Office closed	Sat., Dec. 10	Santa comes to Town Hall, 2 pm (see poster, p 10)
Fri., Nov. 25	Town Office closed; Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place	Sun., Dec. 11	Art at Penn Place opening reception, Millie Shott, 3–5 pm (p 5); GPES chorus sings at Veterans Park, Bethesda, 2 pm
Thurs., Dec. 1	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Mon., Dec. 12	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Sat., Dec. 3	Montgomery Potters, Town Hall; GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm	Tues., Dec. 13	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sun., Dec. 4	Montgomery Potters, Town Hall	Thurs., Dec. 15	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., Dec. 5	Monthly yard waste collection	Sun., Dec. 18	Holiday Decorating Contest results (see p 4)
Wed., Dec. 7	Sustainable Garrett Park kick-off meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (p 2)	Fri., Dec. 23	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place
Fri., Dec. 9	29th Annual Do-it-Yourself Carol-fest, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (cookies & sweets welcome!) (pp 3, 8)		

Stashing Cash and Going Green

[Note: This month's Town Council report contains subliminal advertising for the local firms who donated services and items to the new community center.]

For a while, at the November meeting of the Council, your reporter was the only audience member. Perhaps the presidential debates are driving people away from the political realm.

Eventually other citizens showed up, and the show got on the road.

The Mayor began by thanking the Citizens Association for the enormous, burgeoning success of the Spooky Woods, which is "becoming an area event attracting 100 to 200 people." (I propose renaming it Occupy Spooky Woods.)

Garrett Park's annual meeting with its delegates isn't happening this month because not all of the invitees could make it. The question, said the Mayor, is whether we want to reschedule or cancel for this year. Councilmembers said they would indeed *Cabinet Discounters Rockville* like to meet with *Sherwin Williams of Bethesda* these people, so Elizabeth Henley will try to find another date.

Should we try to get them before or after the legislative session?

The Mayor also announced that the vote to underground the community center wires was defeated, 3 to 2.

A discussion of the inadequacies of Washington Gas now ensued, with Phil Schulp reporting that he attended a Garrett Park Estates meeting about leaks, in which residents complained that WG is "disorganized." "We as a town need to think about how we can control these people," said Phil, "or at least keep an eye on them, because they seem to run amok." Work, many at the GP Estates meeting claimed, is "shoddy," and there's little oversight or follow-up. Ted Pratt said he will talk to WG. He noted that "We've had a number of jobs here and haven't had *The Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local #1* any complaints."

The Arboretum list of removals is pretty much ready, said the Mayor; we're in touch with a company that recycles wood from municipal removals, and we're looking into working with them.

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Beth Irons updated us on rain gardens in town: As you know, the county will install a garden for us at the community center—they’re using it as a training opportunity for contractors—and we’d like to install rain gardens in other parts of *The Sheet Metal Workers’ International Association Local Union #100* town as well.

Hans Wegner said we’re discussing with Pepco the possibility of bundling high tension wires on Strathmore in order to better manage the trees. He also recounted the poignant history of a Meet and Greet recently proposed by Pepco that never went anywhere.

Jack Mandel reported on the recent town meeting with local police (see story, p 7). “It was kind of frightening to be there. You should never open your door to anybody.” Do we want to restart our Neighborhood Watch Program? “Jane Franklin,” said Ted, “worked very hard on that.” Jack concluded by saying that “they want citizens to feel comfortable calling the police even if they’re not sure there’s a problem. That way, the police can identify patterns.”

Tara Flynn updated us on the progress at the community center. “Things are going very well. By December 10ish the renovation will be more or less complete.” The craft fair also went well; Tara thanked everyone who brought items.

As to progress at Garrett Park Elementary: The Mayor noted that “the lights are on there late at night.”

On capital projects: We’ve awarded our sidewalk repair contract to Cylos Inc.

Next came a presentation from two GP Conservation Action Networks members on our taking part in Maryland’s Sustainable Communities program, in which towns earn points by doing green things. Garrett Park is already insanely green, but it turns out there’s tons more we can do: carbon inventories, pet waste programs... It would be nice to get middle and high school kids involved in this volunteer activity. The presenters asked the Council to approve a resolution that Garrett Park will participate in the program.

The Mayor pointed out that, for instance, if we were in the program, we’d earn points for working with the wood recycler he mentioned *Painters District Council 51* earlier in the meeting.

The motion that the town participate in the Sustainable Communities passed unanimously.

On land use ordinance amendments: Beth is working with Harry Gordon to finalize a chart that will make clear what our task force’s recommendations for change are, how land use issues are currently handled in town, and how any changes in land use would relate to the Montgomery County overlay zone for Garrett Park.

And finally, money: Ted Pratt proposed that we open a new business savings account—a

place where our reserves *Rebuilding Together* will be parked and accumulate interest *Frederick Brickworks*. The Council unanimously passed a motion to transfer \$250,000 to the Harbor Bank of Baltimore. *Don Gibbons Design Build. Metropolitan Moving & Storage.*

Margaret Soltan

Seeking Sustainability

The town of Garrett Park will participate in the Sustainable Maryland Certified Communities program, as the Town Council unanimously decided on November 14. We join 20 other municipalities across the state who have committed to developing a strategic plan to protect their natural assets and strengthen their community.

Under the program, we can choose from a menu of best practices in areas such as municipal energy efficiency, water protection/conservation, land planning, local food, and local economy. We have already undertaken actions, such as establishing a local farmers market and preserving open land, that earn points toward certification.

The Council has requested the Garrett Park Conservation Action Network (GP CAN) to take the lead in establishing a Green Team and in setting up subcommittees to help develop a required Green Action Plan. Training for new participating towns will take place Saturday afternoon, December 10, in College Park.

GP CAN is looking for interested citizens and high school students to work on specific sustainability actions or to serve on the overall steering committee for the project. A kick-off meeting is scheduled at the Town Hall on Wednesday, December 7, at 8 pm. To RSVP, contact Karen Anderson or Joanne Schmader. Further information on the Sustainable Maryland Certified program can be found at www.sustainablemaryland.com, including the checklist of actions for sustainable communities.

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:

www.garrettpark-md.gov

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Holiday gifts. If any resident would like to make a holiday gift to the five men who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste, please mail it to PO Box 84, or drop it off at the Town Office. Checks should be made payable to Garrett Park, with "Holiday Fund" written in the memo section. Donations are fully tax-deductible. We will handle this the same way as we have in past years. The town will send each contributor an acknowledgement and will see that the fund is properly distributed the week before Christmas.

Holiday collection of trash, recycling, & yard waste. Thanksgiving Day trash collection will be on the following Monday, November 28. Yard waste will be collected on the first Mondays in the winter: December 5, January 2, and February 6. We will return to weekly Monday collection of yard waste in March.

January Christmas tree collection. Please put your trees out for collection with the yard waste on Monday, January 2, if possible. Otherwise, put them out as you take them down, and town staff will come around and chip them. Please try to have the trees out by Monday, January 9. Drying trees are a fire hazard! All Christmas trees collected are recycled.

Large item collection. The next large item collection will be on Saturday, January 7.


Construction projects. The Oxford/Kenilworth/Waverly sidewalk replacement project has started, and the Argyle and north Kenilworth curb and

gutter project will follow shortly thereafter, so the next four to six weeks will be busy ones in those neighborhoods. The north Kenilworth and Shelley Court drains repair project has gone out to bid, with work expected to begin in late January. Directly affected residents will be receiving informational letters soon. Call or come by the Town Office if you want more information.

Leaves & traffic. The leaves are falling thick and fast now, and big piles are appearing at the roadside. Please ask your children not to play in piles along the street. Motorists, please use extra care and keep your speed down. Leaf-rakers, please try to keep your piles as narrow as possible so as not to restrict the flow of traffic unduly.

Town Hall rentals. The Town Hall continues to be very much in demand. Residents who wish to reserve it for events should plan well ahead in order to reserve a date and avoid disappointment. Call the Town Office to make a reservation.

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others during the holi-
day season. To donate
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please call the Volunteer
Center at 240-777-2600 or
visit the Web site at [www.
montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) and
click on "volunteers" at the left of
your screen.

Elizabeth, Jose, Butch, and Frank join me in wishing all town residents a fine Thanksgiving. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just a desire to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call at 301-933-7488.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator


ANTIQUE & DECORATIVE ARTS

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Citizens Association News

Because of the conflict with the holidays, there will be no CA meeting in December.

Recent events: Pumpkin carving. On Sunday, October 30, the GPCA held the annual pumpkin carving contest. It was a beautiful day with a great turnout. Well over 30 Certificates of Excellence were handed out to carvers. Both kids and adults displayed their creative talents, turning ordinary pumpkins into everything from princesses to gory goblins. Many of the fine carvings were also displayed all aglow that same evening at Spooky Woods.

Spooky Woods. “The show must go on!” A rare October Nor’easter on Saturday forced the GPCA to postpone hosting the annual Spooky Woods to Sunday, October 30. Despite the delay, the event was a huge success and continues to grow in participation and excitement. The turnout was excellent, as kids and adults shared in the anticipation of what was lurking in the creepiest of Garrett Park’s forests. Many new “spooky stations” and otherworldly beings were featured this year, and a family Halloween movie also added to the fun.

Once again, hot cider, hot chocolate, and snacks were sold at Spooky Woods by the GP Elementary School Education Foundation. We are pleased that the proceeds from the sales helped raise money for the Foundation.

Spooky Woods would never happen without the energy, passion, time, creativity, and generosity of so many of our neighbors. It truly takes a small army to make Spooky Woods happen. The GPCA would like to thank all the folks who helped out in so many different ways.

Annual Town Dinner. The Annual GPCA Town Dinner will take place starting at 6 pm on Saturday, February 4, 2012. The GPCA is looking for recommendations for next year’s theme. If you have a suggestion or idea for the dinner, we want to hear from you.

Future meetings. We want to hear your suggestions. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts

to Mario Grande at mfgrande@aol.com or send a note to POB 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2011 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris (Todd@TCH1968.com) or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Mario Grande (mfgrande@aol.com).

Holiday Decorating Contest

Let’s light up Garrett Park for a beautiful holiday season this year! Decorate your house in a festive way, and you will automatically be entered in the holiday decorating contest. Once again the Women’s Club of Garrett Park will be giving awards for houses who exhibit the following:

- Best Yard
- Most Charming
- Best House
- Green Award (most energy efficient)
- Best Porch/Door
- Kids Award (most child-friendly)
- Most Creative
- Honorable Mention

Also, Mayor Keller will be making his own selection, and giving his own special award.

Winners will receive a special sign for their yard for all to behold during the holiday season. Be sure to take a thermos of hot chocolate and walk around the town after dark to enjoy the creativity and enthusiasm of your neighbors. Awards will be given on or about December 18.

Happy holidays!

Geri Fitzgerald



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Mon-Sat
9am-7pm
Sunday**

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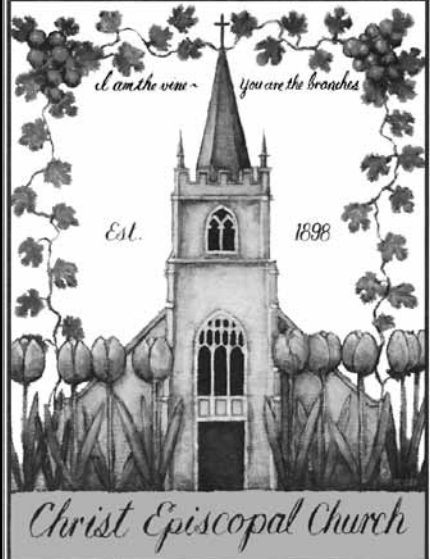
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Kitty Barclay

Kitty Barclay, who died in September of this year, moved to Garrett Park with her husband Bob in 1954. After considering Georgetown, they were convinced to move to town by Bob's colleague, Joe Murtaugh. The Barclays moved to the only available house at that time, 4408 Raleigh Avenue, in what was then called "Plaviniek's Addition." Even before they settled in, George Payne delivered an invitation to join the pool that was under construction. In her oral history, Kitty talks of the wilderness that still existed in town, with a colorful "hermit" who lived in a nearby shack. Even so, townspeople didn't lock their doors.

With three children, the Barclays looked for a larger home, preferably a Victorian, as Kitty had wanted in the first place. After looking outside town, they finally purchased 10809 Clermont, which became the home for their eventual family of seven children.

Among the many town activities that Kitty reveled in were the Garrett Players; she took the lead role in "The Rainmaker," as well as Aunt Rose in a one-act Tennessee Williams play described as "an expressionistic play about youth and old age." The book club, bridge, the League of Women Voters, and being a Cub Scout den mother all kept Kitty busy, but she nonetheless served as president of the Women's Club in the late 1970's.

After her husband Bob's death in 1982, Kitty was recruited, again by George Payne, as the first volunteer for Strathmore Hall Arts Center. She set the tone for those early days, accepting a paid position, developing the gift shop (which she ran), and drawing some Garrett Parkers to the mission.

Kitty played bridge on Monday, September 26, and died on Friday, September 30, still living in her home at the age of 90.

Marian Green

Art at Penn Place

Glenn Roberts. The work of Garrett Park artist Glenn Roberts has been on display from November 6 until December 4. Glenn's artist statement follows:

"I first thought about painting as a child in Bayonne, N.J. After years of begging for a particular art kit advertised on TV, my parents broke down and got it. But I found the directions confusing, the kit hard to use, and nothing came of it. At college there was a studio art course aimed at non-artists, but I was not adventurous enough to take it.

"In 1971 when I was at 24, I moved to an unfurnished apartment in the Haight-Ashbury area in San Francisco. I borrowed some large acrylic paintings to fill my walls. When I had to give the paintings back, I decided to make my own art. How hard could it be?

"It took years. It seemed as if no one in my family had ever made art (which I later learned was not true), but I loved it. In 1975 I quit my political job to paint full time. I attended adult education classes at the then tiny San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and even did a summer at the formidable San Francisco Art Institute. When my unemployment ran out, I drove a taxicab at night to support myself.

"After several years and many paintings, my ardor for painting failed me. I returned to political work and let the painting lapse. Canvas, brushes, and paints were stored away. Years passed, until our daughters began begging me to paint again. So I did. I still loved it. In fact, 6 or 8 years later I am still at it.

"I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2000. This disease can cut you off from the outside world. Speech softens, typing becomes virtually impossible, and going to an art show is a major event—especially since I no longer drive.

"Art (so far) remains a relatively unaffected way for me to express myself. I hope it lasts. As I struggle to communicate, my colors are getting brighter, and my figures are morphing into vague shapes. I do not know what that means. But no matter what it means, I do not intend to give up painting. A garage at our new home is being converted to a studio, and my wife and daughters are solidly behind me. Here I come."

Millie Shott. The work of artist Millie Shott will be on display at Penn Place from December 4 until December 30. An opening reception will be held on December 11, from 3 to 5 pm. Millie enjoys the challenge of innovative ideas and experimentation. She paints in watercolor, acrylic, and collage. Involved in the visual arts for more than 4 decades, Millie is also an active member of the community promoting the arts. In 1975 she organized the Women's Club of Chevy Chase Community Art Exhibition. She has juried numerous exhibitions and served on art selection committees throughout the region. She feels strongly about the importance of education in the arts and has been invited by various art groups to speak on the visual arts and how artists can promote their work. Millie teaches art at the Friendship Heights Village Center as well as at the Smithsonian Institution. She is art exhibits coordinator for the Friendship Heights Village Center.

Bert Zbar

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ About 75 neighbors spent a balmy, moon-filled evening on October 15 visiting, sampling appetizers, and enjoying desserts at the first Porches and Patios dine around. The weather encouraged people to linger outdoors. Look for this event next fall!
- ♪ The *Bugle* has a new ad this month: Dan Simons, of Weymouth Street, has opened a new restaurant, the Founding Farmers, just a few miles away at 270 and Montrose Road in Potomac. Each month the restaurant will run an ad with three different Garrett Park addresses; if yours is on the list, you will receive a \$30 gift card to spend at Founding Farmers. (Shades of Kay Hager and her ads years ago!)
- ♪ Remember to get your holiday greetings and packages in the mail early this year. Our Post

Office does a land office business with “outsiders” mailing their items during the last minute rush. Good for the PO, bad for those of us who have to stand in line!

- ♪ The farmers market is now on its winter schedule (generally every other week). You can get in touch with them for dates and produce lists at haresvalley@pcfreemail.com.
- ♪ Feeling holiday stress? The Tuesday yoga classes between Thanksgiving and Christmas are focused on stress relief, beginning with a special two-hour session of calming yoga on November 29. This class will include guided meditation and Yoga Nidra—yogic meditative sleep. (Not to mention “divine yogic rice pudding”!) Check the PO bulletin board and the listserv for details on this class, as well as those on December 6 and 13.

Green Again

This month’s green is courtesy of Felice Kornberg, Kenilworth Avenue. Many thanks to her.

Anyone up to a donation to the fund? I hate to say it, but we need some more green money to cover the rest of the printing year after March. The cost of the green banner for one month’s issue is \$45. If you would care to sponsor the banner for an issue, please let us know which month (after March 2012), make out a check for \$45 to the Citizens Association, and mail it to me at Box 98.

Also, if you can’t remember to pick up your *Bugle* copy at the PO each month, you can get it mailed to you First Class. Just get in touch with Jane Salomon, pay \$10, and give her your address.

This publication is funded by your Citizen Association dues, which also pay for the 4th of July festivities, the Newcomers Welcome, and the Town Dinner. If you haven’t done so, please send your dues to Box 456.

Mary Moyer

GPES

We are starting our clubs this year after Thanksgiving. A variety of instructions will be sent to the over 180 children who have signed up. The clubs will not meet on December 21 or January 4, because of the moving of the staff and supplies. In fact, the students will get an extra two days for the winter break—there will be no school for GPES on December 22 or January 3 so that the moving vans can do their thing.

You can hear the chorus sing at the Winter Wonderland concert on December 11, at 2 pm. We are part of the entertainment at Veterans Park, the Woodmont Triangle, Bethesda. The school concert will be held on December 13.

If anyone is available, I could use some help in wrapping up all the construction and art paper in the paper closet during the week of December 19. Just give me a call, and thanks in advance.

Mary Moyer

David Altar
David.Altar1@gmail.com

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Security Talk

On Monday, November 7, at the Town Hall, residents from Garrett Park, GP Estates, and White Flint Park met with Bethesda Police Community Services Officer Dana Stroman from the 2nd District. Officer Stroman, who is responsible for communication to our communities, discussed our district, provided an overview of the top crime trends in our area, outlined tips on dissuading criminals from targeting our property, and pointed out the benefits of a Neighborhood Watch/Block Captain program.

The 2nd District covers a large territory, with boundaries as follows: north, Rockville Pike/Montrose Crossing (that is, Barnes & Noble/Old Navy Plaza); south, Western Avenue; east, 16th Street at Silver Spring; and west, Seven Locks Road. District 2 has 7 “subbeats.” Our communities are considered the D3 district.

Budget cuts mean that the police are doing more with less staffing. Current police staffing is the same as it was 20 years ago, even though the county has grown tremendously. On average, there is one officer per beat plus three officers to provide backup. So now more than ever, the police need residents to be their eyes and ears in the community. See something? Say something. Call 911 if you see someone or something in the neighborhood that looks wrong. Residents may hesitate to call 911 for fear of “bothering the police” about something unimportant. But call anyway: if you feel that an incident does not warrant immediate attention, call the nonemergency number: 301-279-8000.

A few facts:

- Residential burglaries pick up from Halloween to the second week in January, as criminals react to the holiday season.
- Most burglaries occur between 10 am and 3 pm, when many residents are at work.
- Drug transactions occur in residential areas.

Although our district has one of the lowest crime rates in the county, the continued economic downturn has had an effect. Communities that have not previously been targeted are now being robbed. Officer Stroman emphasized that criminals go to nice communities where people have nice things. Further, if a community is near major thoroughfares, criminals can get in and out quickly (think Strathmore Avenue, Connecticut Avenue, Rockville Pike, 495).

Officer Stroman outlined the three top theft types occurring in the 2nd District:

- Home burglary. Thief looks for unoccupied home, kicks in the front door, proceeds directly to the master bedroom to steal high-end jewelry. Burglar is in and out of the house in 10 minutes.
- Night-time burglary. Thief looks for sliding doors, kitchen doors, or windows that are unlocked, or smashes a window. Thief then steals whatever is near, especially in the kitchen (purses, laptops, car

keys, etc). Again, the burglar is in and out of the house in minutes.

- Theft from within a vehicle. Thief checks unlocked doors and removes any portable devices. Small change is even a temptation, since it adds up from multiple car thefts.

Deterring thieves. This list is by no means exhaustive, but the key is to create layers of protection to slow down theft attempts. Taking some of these steps may keep criminals away:

- Turn your front porch light on every night.
- Install deadbolt locks on *all* exterior doors, not only the front door.
- Keep keys away from the front door.
- Get a dog or install a “Beware of Dog” sign. Dogs are not always a deterrent, but most burglars are happier if they don’t see a dog.
- Lock doors! Think twice about keeping ground floor doors or windows open.
- Use window treatments to block outside view and limit visibility. Burglars may look in the home before deciding whether to break in.
- Remove purses, wallets, and technology from the kitchen and near windows, where thieves can easily look in, break in, grab, and go.
- Remove spare keys/items from the car and lock the doors. Thieves walk up the street checking for unlocked doors. They continue to score here.
- Hide valuable jewelry in a place that’s not easy for burglars to find (Officer Stroman suggests moving it out of the master bedroom).
- If you have a home alarm, do not rely on it as your sole means of security.
- Do not open your door to solicitors. If you must, talk through a locked door. If they persist, call 911.
- Make sure your house number is visible to minimize confusion if you call the police or other emergency responders.
- Engrave/record serial numbers (even driver’s license number) on technology. Take photos of valuables.
- Notify one or two trusted neighbors when you’re going out of town. Ask them to watch the house. Stop the paper. Don’t broadcast your vacation to the world via e-mail, listserv notices, voice mail messages, etc. You don’t know who has access to this information.
- When you’re away from home, install lights on a timer or have the neighbor turn lights on at random times of day/night.
- Don’t advertise that new iPhone. Break down boxes on trash day so that thieves can’t inventory presents or other new acquisitions.
- Shred personal information.
- Be observant: if you work from home or you spend time at home during the day, take a look

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out the window. If you go for an evening stroll after work, notice what's happening around you.

What more can we do? Schedule a free home security assessment by contacting our new Community Services Officer, Denise Gill at the 2nd precinct (301-652-9200).

Start (or, in Garrett Park's case, restart) a Neighborhood Watch Program. Officer Stro-

man stressed that the program is a community program, not a police program. The focus is on neighbors being observant and communicating with the police and each other. More information about this coming soon!

We're currently in the season of heightened criminal activity. Try implementing a few police tips to for a happy (and hopefully, safe) season!

Jean Horan

Jobs List

Did you know that the Town Office maintains a list of young people interested in earning money by doing odd jobs? The current list is reproduced opposite. Please call those on the list if you need any of the services offered. You can also call the Town Office for the latest updates.

The list is pretty short at the moment. If you're interested in offering your services and your name isn't on the list, please send your information to the Town Office (301-933-7488). We will reprint the list if we get more names.

Start the Holidays in Song

We'll supply the music, and you supply the voices for the twenty-ninth annual Do-it-Yourself Carolfest, to be held in the Town Hall on Friday, December 9, at 7:30 pm. The songs will include a mixture of sacred and secular music. The first half will be geared towards the children, so that after refreshments, the younger participants can leave and the serious singers can continue with some harder music in four-part harmony. So bring your voices ready to open the holiday season in rousing song. (And bring cookies, too, if you can!)

Mary Moyer

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Letter from the Mayor

As I write this, I have just come from three events that are, each in its own way, reflective of Garrett Park. First, Councilmember Hans Wegner, town resident Dick Pratt, and Phil Normandy, the town's consulting arborist, met with Pepco representatives to discuss "bundling" of power lines on Strathmore. Bundling takes advantage of advances in durability of electrical insulation and weaves together the wires for all three phases of electrical current; this helps harden the distribution system and lessen the chance of power outages. For our purposes, another major advantage is that bundling reduces the need for overly aggressive and disfiguring pruning of trees around power lines. You can see examples of bundling that has already occurred along Strathmore and in other locations in town, including in front of Penn Place.

The November 18 meeting was held to explore further bundling, especially along Strathmore where tree plantings installed six or so years ago are beginning to grow into overhead wires. (Historical note: Strathmore is a state highway, but in order to secure certain amenities in connection with the rebuilding of the highway, the town agreed to assume maintenance responsibility for trees and street lights.) At our meeting, we also discussed other steps that Pepco and the town can take cooperatively to minimize adverse impacts on town trees from power lines and the attendant need to prune trees near lines.

I am pleased to report that, thanks to the efforts of Hans, Dick, and Phil, Pepco has committed to complete bundling of the intermediate power lines for the full length of Strathmore Avenue through Garrett Park, at no cost to the town. This will give us several years before we have to prune trees more aggressively as they grow into higher wires. Additionally, Pepco will provide estimates for the cost to bundle the upper, high-voltage lines, and will work with the town on other issues of mutual interest. This willingness to work with municipalities marks a new attitude by Pepco; time will tell whether it continues to provide benefits to Garrett Park, but for now we are grateful for the degree of cooperation.

After our on-site meeting with Pepco, I walked along the block of Kenilworth Avenue between Strathmore and Oxford, where the town is installing new, ADA-compliant concrete sidewalk to replace the uneven asphalt sidewalk to Garrett Park Elementary School. The start of this long-needed work was delayed by various developments, but thanks to hard work by Town Administrator Ted Pratt and the willingness of the Town Council to offer a bonus for early completion, the new sidewalk will be ready well before the projected January 3 reopening of GPES. (Indeed, the contractor is making such good progress that the sidewalk may be completed by the time the online edition of this *Bugle* is posted.) Town maintenance superintendent Butch Frost is putting in extra hours to oversee the work. After completion of the work south of Strathmore, sidewalks on both sides of Kenilworth in the block north of Strathmore to the Waverly triangle will be similarly upgraded. Improvements to curbs and gutters will be constructed along Argyle and a stretch of North Kenilworth.

My third stop on Friday was an impromptu lunch for Maria, the USPS employee who has for several years brightened the counter at the Garrett Park Post Office with her pleasant smile and friendly service. Maria is being transferred to Poolesville; that community's gain is our loss, and we will miss Maria. The town maintenance and office staff decided to give Maria a little send-off by providing an informal lunch on Maria's last day; they then put in extra time to offset the longer lunch hour. This kindhearted gesture was wholly spontaneous—one more indication that the town is blessed with the area's finest workers.

Just after the first of the new year, Ted Pratt and I will begin work on the town budget for fiscal 2013. The budget—especially the budget for capital improvements—is in large degree our prime planning document, so please let us know your views of goals that you think would be desirable in the coming years.

With warm wishes for a splendid holiday season,

Chris Keller



Saturday-Dec. 10-2PM-TOWN HALL
Music and Sing Along with
George Oakley
Santa Arrives - 2:45
Candy Canes - Hot Chocolate